



CHOICES Charter School

P.O. Box 15386
Florence, SC 29506

Grades	6-11 High School	
Enrollment	40 Students	
Principal	Ralph Porter	843-664-8993
Superintendent	Dr. Rainey Knight	843-398-5100
Board Chair	Charles Govan	843-332-2288

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	N/A	N/A
2011	N/A	N/A
2010	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A
2008	N/A	N/A

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- At-Risk – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE VISION

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

<http://ed.sc.gov>
<http://www.eoc.sc.gov>

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
3	3	21	1	1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/14/2012.

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exam Passage Rate: Second Year Students

	Our High School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Passed 2 subtests (%)	75.0%	25.0%	25.0%	64.5%	61.6%	70.7%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	17.7%	19.6%	16.2%
Passed no subtests (%)	N/A	50.0%	50.0%	20.0%	18.8%	13.1%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Percent	100.0%	89.2%

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2011*	2012	2011	2012
Number of Students in Four-Year Cohort	N/A	10	129	182
Number of Graduates in Cohort	N/A	0	85	134
Rate	N/A	0.0%	63.8%	72.8%

*Used to calculate current ESEA/Federal Accountability Grade.

Five-Year Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Number of Students in Cohort	N/A	N/A	135	189
Number of Graduates in Cohort	N/A	N/A	91	143
Rate	N/A	N/A	64.0%	75.2%

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours*
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2		64.7%
English 1		55.0%
Biology 1/Applied Biology 2		66.7%
US History and the Constitution	0.0%	35.1%
All Tests	0.0%	51.8%

* High Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A—Not Applicable N/AV—Not Available N/C—Not Collected N/R—Not Reported I/S—Insufficient Sample

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n=40)				
Retention rate	2.3%	Up from 2.1%	4.3%	3.0%
Attendance rate	89.2%	Down from 91.0%	94.9%	95.3%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	Down from 6.3%	1.1%	0.9%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	0.0%	No Change	6.2%	13.4%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	24.2%	50.9%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	N/R	N/R	28.1%	30.1%
Annual dropout rate	14.3%	Up from 12.0%	2.7%	2.3%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	N/A	N/A	6.2%	2.7%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	N/A	355	395
Students participating in work-based experiences	N/A	N/A	5.2%	7.4%
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	N/A	N/A	81.9%	84.0%
Career/technology completers placed	N/A	N/A	99.3%	98.4%
Teachers (n=3)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	N/A	N/A	61.3%	63.2%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	83.6%	86.6%
Teacher attendance rate	N/R	N/R	94.7%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	I/S	I/S	\$46,863	\$47,326
Professional development days/teacher	10.0 days	Up from 9.0 days	10.5 days	9.7 days
School				
Principal's years at school	10.0	Up from 9.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	14.0 to 1	Down from 14.7 to 1	24.4 to 1	27.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	N/R	N/R	87.8%	89.4%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,399	Down 14.0%	\$8,818	\$7,708
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	58.4%	Down from 61.4%	55.2%	57.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	74.0%	Up from 73.0%	57.8%	59.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	No Change	Good	Excellent
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	97.1%	97.8%
Character development program	Average	Down from Excellent	Good	Good
Modern language program assessment	N/A	N/A	Good	Good
Classical language program assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	Average

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 185 or more days.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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Performance By Student Groups

	HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012		End of Course Tests Passage Rate		On-time Graduation Rate, 2012	
	n	%	t	%	n	%
All Students	2	100.0%	1	0.0%	10	0.0%
Gender						
Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Racial/Ethnic Group						
White	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability Status						
Disabled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Socio-Economic Status						
Subsidized meals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

NOTE: n=number of students on which percentage is calculated; t=number of tests taken.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

“CHOICES” is in its 10th year as a charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County. “CHOICES” target population is student’s ages 12 yrs to 17yrs which have been expelled from school or dropped out. Our goal is to provide an education that will transition them to become life-long learners and to possibly return to regular traditional school if that is possible and appropriate. “CHOICES” provides a foundation for continuous learning through classroom instruction, service learning, project-based learning, and on-site construction training. Character training is the cornerstone for “CHOICES” as the students are given the opportunity to discover the greatest possible understanding of self. They are exposed to individual, personalized learning with a strong emphasis on work ethics and job skills. The mission of “CHOICES” Charter School is to provide a learning environment that links school to work experiences by making the right choices and staying in school. “CHOICES” originated by the retired Police Chief of Florence who saw a need for a school for divergent learners who were roaming the streets and demonstrating behavior problems that were getting them expelled from school. This is the only other alternative after expulsion other than the streets or incarceration. “CHOICES” is physically located in Darlington County adjacent to Florence County in the middle of 130 acres of forest on Black Creek. The property is owned by Central United Methodist Church and “CHOICES” actually leases 8 acres for one dollar per month for the actual school location. Student enrollment has remained small, beginning with 30 students and capping off at 45 students. There is one certified teacher and teacher’s assistant per 15 students with additional assistance provided by retired professional people in the community. “CHOICES” has incorporated a Pre-GED component for students that cannot return to High School and will pursue the GED test when they turn 17yrs of age. “Choices” has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications between schools relative to student behavior.

Respectfully submitted by: Ralph Porter Executive Director and retired Police Chief.

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	4	1	27
Percent satisfied with learning environment	I/S	I/S	100.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	I/S	I/S	100.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	I/S	I/S	100.0%

* Only eleventh grade students and their parents were included. For schools without grade eleven, only the highest grade was included.

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ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This waiver allowed SC to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place and combine these subject area results with graduation rate (in high schools) to determine if each school met the target or made progress toward the target. This analysis results in a letter grade for the school rather than the pass/fail system of previous years. For a detailed review of the matrix for each school and districts that determined the letter grade, please use the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/eSEA/> or request this information from your child's district or school.

Overall Weighted Points Total	N/A
Overall Grade Conversion	I

Index Score	Grade	Description
90-100	A	Performance substantially exceeds the state's expectations.
80-89.9	B	Performance exceeds the state's expectations.
70-79.9	C	Performance meets the state's expectations.
60-69.9	D	Performance does not meet the state's expectations.
Less than 60	F	Performance is substantially below the state's expectations

Accountability Indicator for Title I Schools

CHOICES Charter School school has been designated as a:

- ☐ Title I Reward School for Performance - among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.
- ☐ Title I Reward School for Progress – one of the schools with substantial progress in student subgroups.
- ☐ Title I Focus School – one of the schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.
- ☐ Title I Priority School – one of the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.
- ☐ Title I School – does not qualify as Reward, Focus or Priority School.
- ☒ Non-Title I School – therefore the designations above are not applicable.

Teacher Quality Data

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	100.0%	0.0%	No

Abbreviations for Missing Data

Two-Year HSAP Trend Data								
	School Year	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*
English/Language Arts								
All Students	2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics								
All Students	2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data